



GMNC Public Services Committee Meeting
December 8, 2020
6:30-8:00pm
Zoom Meeting

Minutes

Attendees

Rachel Idowu
David Guzman
Dennis Roach
David Holness
Jovan Lacet
Earl Faulk
Barbara Crichlow
Ruby Saucer
Andree Smith
Donald Caisey
June Joseph
Judnise Guillet
Patricia Bellfield
Brandy Fluker Oakley
R.O. Aamir Mahdi
Tracey Powell
Roudnie Celestin

1. Covid-19 Check-in
 - i. Rates are rising, but nothing to report.
2. Updates/Announcements
 - i. Cummins Highway Pilot Project Check In (Matthew Skelly)
 1. David Holness – could've done a better job with the green material for the bike lanes. At Itasca, across the street the flex posts prevent cars from traveling down the leftmost lane. Trying to take a left onto Itasca holds up traffic and creates a risk for rear-ends. 311 requests going unanswered? Check in with

2. Rachel Idowu – truck coming out to make a left turn onto Cummins Highway and jumped the median. Large vehicles maneuvering are having issues.
 3. June Joseph – the light to take a left onto Cummins from Woodhaven is a really long wait. Did the lights get retimed?
 4. Barbara Crichlow – can you share a plan for what's going to happen with the snow plows. What's the experience been with the emergency vehicles? Can we get connected to someone from emergency services to talk about their experience with the new arrangement?
 5. David Holness – is there special equipment for snow plowing? Going south on Cummins Highway onto Blue Hill Ave, the lane marking are insufficient. People are exiting their lanes.
 6. Kenya Beamon – bike lanes should be wide enough for snow plowing, street sweeping. Still a trial period, we'll have the opportunity to comment. When is Jeff going to re-present the plans? Copy Kenya and Charlotte Fleetwood on the email.
- ii. Trash/Recycling Bins Update (David Holness)
 1. Nothing has changed! Matt to reach back out and get clarification.
 - iii. Savannah/Monterey Residents Only Parking Update (Dennis Roach)
 1. Roudnie says the best option for us is to wait until the program opens up again and reapply. Maybe propose to the City a limit on the resident only parking time? Also is there any way we could get the other lot opened up?
 - iv. American Legion Highway Project (Lisa Beatman)
 - v. Public Restrooms during Covid – any thoughts?
 - vi. T-Talks – tomorrow night! Please invite 3 friends
3. Blue Hill Avenue Projects
 - i. Blue Hill Ave Project Update (meeting recap, public statements, safety priority etc)

1. Do we agree that safety is the number 1 priority? Congestion? What are our goals?
2. David Holness – BHA corridor is a gateway to the City. People can't go from the City line to Warren Street in 20 minutes and that's a major problem. Parking is an issue. What about adjusting the timing on the lights?
3. Patricia Bellfield (Attleboro) – I thought Matt Moran was really just trying to have an understanding of what was going on, I didn't think that he was necessarily trying to dictate
4. Dennis Roach – Agree with Patricia, I thought he was trying to listen to what we had to say, but some members of the public didn't seem to get that message.
5. Javon Lacet – The problem is that they previously had presented plans at several different meetings. It's not fair for them to not show their plans. The death recently in Milton was very affecting, and I understand the need for Slow Streets, but this might be too much. Might be good for the folks who take the bus or bike, but there are way more drivers than bikers, and while we want to protect bikers, we need to maintain the rights of drivers. Not cool that they're using a firm from New York.
6. Barbara Crichlow – When did Blue Hill Avenue become a city street? Can we confirm City/State/DCR jurisdiction on BHA? Nita from Senator Collins office says it's a State road, but the City has a maintenance agreement on it. Maybe Russell can confirm? Also worried about disabled people getting into the middle of the street for the center running bus lanes.
7. Kenya Beamon – it's really important for everyone to stay engaged with this process. We know a lot of people in our culture drive, but that's at least in part due to the fact that people can't rely on quick transit. It might be good to get a more detailed understanding of how the traffic analysis works. A lot of people

on BHA might not care about that. It's important to educate the black and brown community on these processes, and also important for the City to hire black and brown people to handle that education.

8. Nita Holder – I'm interested in learning more about what the basis of the traffic analysis is. There are a lot more
9. Michelle from Colorado Street – we need a better outreach program to get to folks who aren't plugged into the internet. Also it needs to be broken down more simply to a point people can understand. We don't all understand all the different departments and jurisdictions. It needs to be made simple. Billboards, more in person direct communication, encouraging people to talk to their neighbors.
10. Brian Worrell - Can we find out the data behind the bikers. How many bikers use BHA in order for them to get a whole bike lane and take away from parking and make a more congested street?
11. Patricia Bellfield – Minority radio stations might be a good idea for outreach.
12. Ruby Saucer – What exactly is the problem? It's been working all this time and now you want to go and change it? I don't like the new Cummins Highway and I don't like the new American Legion Highway. Now you want to make BHA the same? You can't predict the future and I think it works OK the way it is.
13. Andree Smith – How is it possible that making it one lane is going to be safer? How is it possible that you're going to be able to make it work? What about traffic enforcement to resolve the double parking and bring back the capacity?
14. Barbara Crichlow - A while back, BPD Captain Claybourne had a cruiser come down BHA on Fridays and ticket people for double parking. Eventually the merchants complained. Also the police started chalking peoples tires who were

parked in the Square all day long, and a lot of those turned out to be the merchants. Can we also get parking enforcement out there?

15. Andree Smith – we see way more home owners involved in the community process, whereas renters maybe don't feel like they have as much stake in things.
 16. Kenya Beamon – we also don't see many people
 17. Michelle from Colorado Street – we need to bring the outreach to the people on the bus! Flyers, notices, and in person meetings. Great to also educate people on how to use zoom where possible.
 18. Barbara Crichlow – need to get the information on the actual buses and the trains.
 19. Fatima Ali-Salaam – we've been working on getting electronic community billboards on the street installed. Community groups could all post their information for free on those.
 - ii. Morton at Blue Hill Ave & Harvard Street MassDOT construction – any issues so far?
(Matthew Skelly)
 - iii. DND Parcels
4. New Items? - please email Matt in advance if possible
- i. Having trouble getting a toilet removed from the park. It's on the Cricket Field and it needs to be removed. Earl is going to send me pictures.

Ongoing Items Tabled until Future notice:

1. Emergency Services Event
2. Colorado/Itasca Streets Slow Streets Application (42 Almont crosswalk)
3. Liquor license discussion recap
4. Find a permit review <https://data.boston.gov/dataset/approved-building-permits/resource/6ddcd912-32a0-43df-9908-63574f8c7e77>
5. PLAN Mattapan
6. AARP Livable Communities Update